

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS:PINT, GR

SUBJ: ELECTION ROUND-UP OF GREEK LEFT

1. SUMMARY. FINAL WEEK OF THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN
PRODUCED THE FIRST MASS COMMUNIST RALLY IN DOWNTOWN
ATHENS SINCE GREEK COMMUNISTS SHOWED THE RED FLAG AT THE
LIBERATION OF ATHENS IN 1944 AS WELL AS CONCLUDING
TELEVISION APPEARANCE OF PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU WITH
STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENTS AND AN ACCUSATION
OF ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST HIM. TONIGHT'S
PASOK RALLY IN CONSTITUTION SQUARE WILL JUST ABOUT
WRAP IT UP FOR THE LEFT. END SUMMARY.

2. ABOUT 100,000 ATHENIANS GATHRED IN CONSTITUTION
SQUARE NOVEMBER 13 TO SHOUT COMMUNIST SLOGANS, WAVE
CLENCHED FISTS, AND LISTEN TO UNITED LEFT PARTY
LEADERS - ILIOU, FLORAKIS, THEODOROPOULOS, AND
NASIS - PROCLAIM MARXIST HOPES FOR GREECE. THE RALLY
WAS ENTHUSIASTIC, DISCIPLINED AND PEACEFUL. SUCH A
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SCENE HAS NOT SURFACED IN ATHENS SINCE 1944. POLICE

WERE PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE IN DOWNTOWN ATHENS.

3. IMPLICATION OF POSSIBLE SINISTER NOTE EMERGED IN OTHERWISE PEACEFUL NATIONAL CAMPAIGN WITH THE REPORT THAT THE CAR WHICH WAS SUPPOSEDLY BRINGING PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU FROM TRIPOLIS TO NAFPLION NARROWLY MISSED COLLISION WITH A VAN ON NOVEMBER 13. PAPANDREOU WAS NOT IN THE CAR, HAVING ELECTED TO FLY BACK TO THE CAPITAL. SUSPICION WAS ATTACHED TO INCIDENT BECAUSE OF PASOK ASSERTION THAT VAN LICENSE PLATE COVERED WITH CLOTH AND BECAUSE A VAN HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATION IN GREEK PUBLIC MIND SINCE LEFTIST DEPUTY LAMBRAKIS WAS KILLED BY ONE IN 1963. PRESS REPORTS IDENTIFIED VAN'S DRIVER AS A VILLAGER, ANASTASIOS PAPANTONIOU, WHO CLAIMED HE COVERED HIS PLATES BECAUSE HE WAS HARE HUNTING, AN ILLEGAL SPORT JUST NOW. THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ORDER HAS ANNOUNCED. "ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION RECEIVED SO FAR, THIS WAS AN ACCIDENTIAL TRAFFIC INCIDENT. A FURTHER INQUIRY IS BEING CONDUCTED."

4. IN HIS FINAL TELEVISION TALK NOVEMBER 12, PAPANDREOU BROKE NO NEW GROUND. ON CYPRUS HE DENOUNCE A "BACKSTAGE AGREEMENT WITH KISSINGER, NATO, THE BUTCHERS OF OUR FATHERLAND WITH THOSE WHO BETRAYED THE ARMED FORCES, THE NATION AND THE PEOPLE." ON NATO HE SAID, "THE LEADERS OF THE NEW DEMOCRACY AND CU/NF MOCK US WHEN THEY TALK OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF GREECE FROM NATO. AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THERE ARE NATO OFFICERS IN GREECE, WHO CONTINUE THEIR ROUTINE WORK OF SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE OF OUR OWN FORCES." PAPANDREOU WILL MAKE HIS LAST MAJOR PUBLIC APPEARANCE TONIGHT IN CONSTITUTION SQUARE.

5. AT THEIR RALLY COMMUNIST SPEAKERS ALSO HAD SOME UNKIND WORDS FOR THE U.S., BUT UNITED LEFT LEADER ILAS ILIOU FOCUSED ON PAPANDREOU, ACCUSING PASOK OF MISLEADING THE PEOPLE THROUGH PROMISES OF IMMEDIATE SOCIALIZATION OF GREECE. "PASOK KNOWS THAT SOCIALISM WILL NOT BE OFFERED ON A PLATE BY THE RULING CLASS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT HAS TO BE WON THROUGH AN ALLIANCE WITH THE LEFT ... THE PRESENCE OF A UNITED LEFT IN PARLIAMENT WILL CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE FOR THE STEADY SUPPORT OF TRULY POSITIVE PROGRAMS, AND WILL ACT AS A BALANCE FOR THOSE WHOSE FLUCTUATING POLITICAL ATTITUDES ALLOW THEM TO CONSIDER COMPROMISES WHICH ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE IN A TRULY SOCIALIST SOCIETY." MIKIS THEODORAKIS SAID, "WE MUST PLUCK THE FEATHERS FROM DOUBLE-HEADED FASCISM.

ONE HEAD SPEAKS IN GREEK, AND THE OTHER SPEAKS
THE LANGUAGE OF THE PENTAGON... WE MUST ROOT OUT
AMERICAN RULE THE IDEOLOGIES OF ANTI-COMMUNISM
AND PRO-AMERICANISM ARE GRADUALLY DYING OUT IN OUR
COUNTRY."

6. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FRATERNAL ATMOSPHERE THAT
GOVERNED THIS LARGE GATHERING, THERE WERE SIGNS OF
FAR LEFT FACTIONALISM AND BAD MANNERS AT THE RALLY.
NITICEABLE CADRES FORMALLY WITHDREW FROM THE RALLY
FOLLOWING THE ADDRESSES OF FLORAKIS, NASIS AND
THEOROROPOULOS, AND BEFORE ILIOU SPOKE. AND THROUGH
MUCH OF ILIOU'S TALK, FLORAKIS AND THEODOROPOULOS ENGAGED
IN AN ANIMATED CONVERSATION ON THE TRIBUNE WITHIN
CAMERA RANGE. THE NATIONAL TELEVISION AUDIENCE WAS TREATED TO
A DOUGHTY AND DULL ILIOU PLUGGING THROUGH HIS TEXT
WHILE THE OTHER TWO MEN LAUGHED IT UP IN THE BACKGROUND.
PAPANDREOU'S CAMP IS MORE MEDIA-CONSCIOUS THAN THE
OTHER PARTIES AND HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED SUCH FAUX PAS.
PAPANDREOU SHOWS GRATER TV SKILL IN HIS STUDIO-
DELIVERED TALKS THAN OTHER PARTY LEADERS. HE DOES NOT
HAVE MUCH COMPETITION IN THIS REGARD.
KUBISCH

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